

ABSTRACT

A fluid bearing polishing apparatus for carrying a polishing member for chemical mechanical polishing includes a fluid supply and a fluid dispensing structure to support the polishing member. A method of polishing a workpiece includes supporting a polishing member on a fluid bearing between a first end of the polishing member and a second end of the polishing member and moving the polishing member to polish the workpiece. The fluid bearing has a curved portion at which plane of travel of the polishing member changes from a first plane to a second plane. Advantages of the invention include smooth belt motion in all desired directions of movement.